

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1-48 w  
A2R11  
OCT 12 1943

Cop. 3

## HOW MUCH CIVILIAN BUTTER?

Broadcast by Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, October 12, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

--00--

Many homemakers have been asking us about the butter situation. Let's look at the facts. Here is what the Food Distribution Administration says:

All the butter we produce between now and April 1 will be entirely for civilian use. Until April first, the Government will stay out of the butter market completely. We'll produce about 700 million pounds of creamery butter in this period. Butter manufacturers won't have to "set aside" any of that 700 million pounds for military or other war uses. And of course, we civilians also get all the farm butter.

Perhaps you wonder what the "set aside" business is all about; and why, since last February, creameries have had to "set aside" part of their butter each month for sale to the Government.

Here's the background on that. We all know the Government has to buy butter for the Armed Forces -- the boys used to spread the butter pretty thickly on their bread when they were home, and they haven't changed. The Government also has to buy some butter to meet the needs of the Red Cross, our territories and the Russian Army. Perhaps you wonder why the Government doesn't buy what it needs from month to month. Well, that's what it used to do. Maybe you remember the freezes on sales of butter last November in 35 cities -- that was because the Government was unable to buy enough to meet its essential needs -- and we civilians were pretty short of butter for a while.

But this year, Government war agencies followed the plan of building up a bank of butter -- buying up stocks of butter ahead of their need, in spring and summer when production was high -- and then not buying at all in the winter months of low production. Our Armed Forces and FDA now have a little over 200 million pounds of creamery butter in this bank--that's just enough butter to meet essential war needs until spring. Our own soldiers, sailors and marines will get almost three-fourths of this "bank" of butter. Between now and April first, no butter will be set aside for war needs, so that we civilians will have a fairly even supply throughout the year. That's been about 100 million pounds a month. For the next six months we should average a bit more.

Our total production of creamery and farm butter this year will probably be a little over two billion pounds. Eight out of every ten pounds have been budgeted for civilian use -- that means we should average about 13 pounds apiece this year. In 1941 and 1942 we ate about 16 pounds of butter per person. Many people have money to buy more butter at the time the supply is smaller. Sometimes it that makes the supply seem shorter than it really is.



